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THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
PEQUOT WAR  
AND  
BATTLE  
OF  
STONINGTON.

ILLUSTRATED.

By GEORGE W. LEWIS.

1891:  
Press of CITY STEAM PRINTING CO.  
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

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**HENRY BRIGHT, JR.,**

who died at Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1686. In the absence of such descendants, other persons are eligible to the scholarships. The will requires that this announcement shall be made in every book added to the Library under its provisions.









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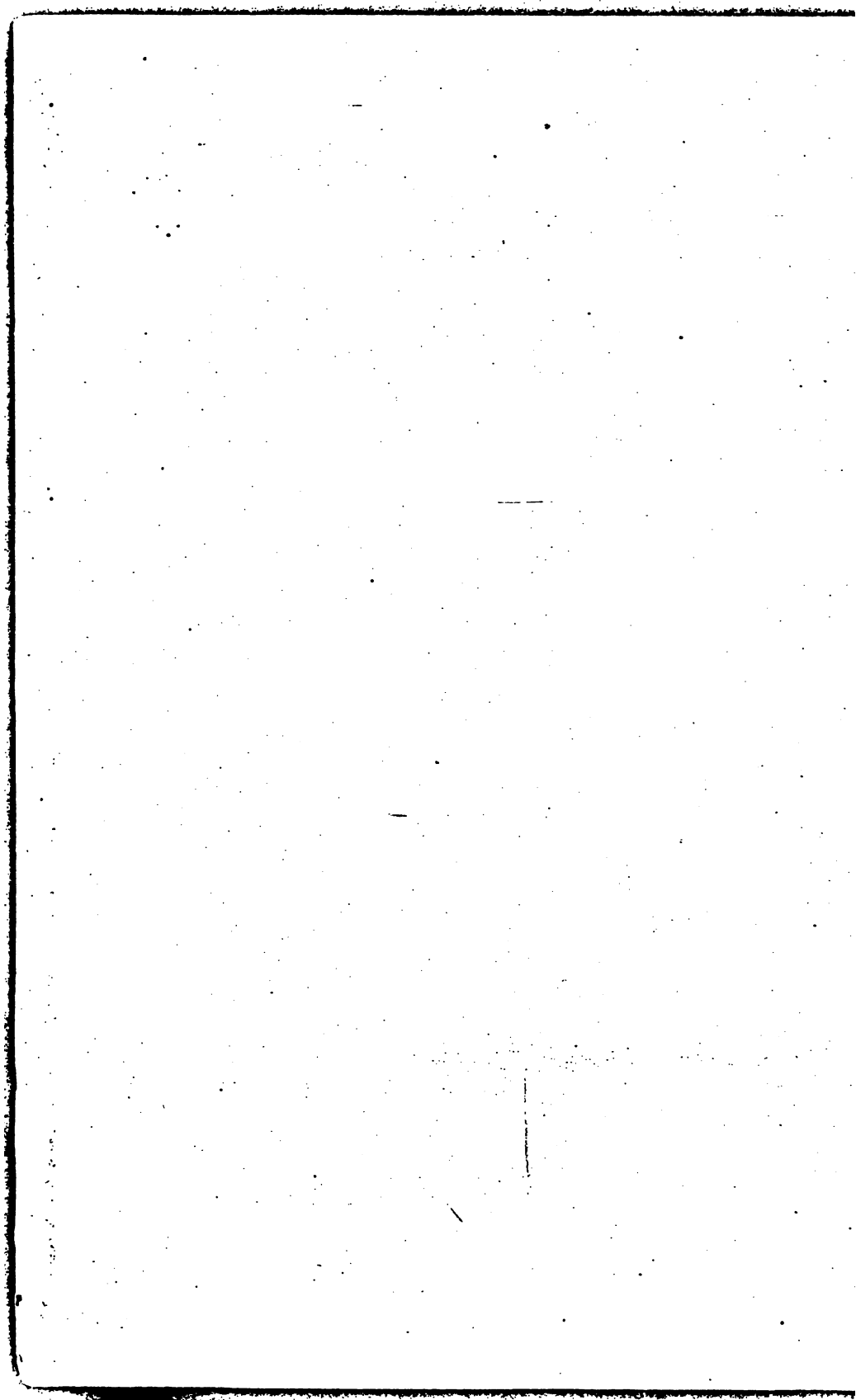
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**GEORGE W. LEWIS.**

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To the  
Descendants of those  
Heroes  
who so nobly defended  
their homes  
and assisted in the preservation  
of our glorious Union,  
This book is affectionately  
dedicated by  
The Author.

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# THE HISTORY OF THE PEQUOT WAR

## AND THE

### BATTLE OF STONINGTON.

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#### CHAPTER I.

**A**S a province, the territory known as Connecticut, more especially its southern border, in its earlier history was perhaps the scene of as frequent encounters among its aboriginal tenants as well as between those and the white new comer, as any like portion comprising the colonial dependencies. The conflicts, more or less sanguinary, and not unfrequent, might seem to be the consequent outcome of a race, separated by tribal divisions, fostered by clannish and traditional prejudice. It was quite otherwise with the white claimant to his new foothold. Generally he is expressed as an aggressor and invader, yet this view is not wholly tenable, earnestly assailed. However it is not the purpose of this little volume to enter upon such disquisition, but simply draw out from accessible sources a relation of events, incidents and episodes pertaining to a section of the province referred to as above.

It may be possible that there were pioneers from the settlements, through the southeastern portion of the territory at a date earlier than that to which our attention is directed, but as evidence of such fact, if it has existence, is wanting, it may be assumed with considerable safety that the expedition here cited was the first to pop through the Narragansett country.

"Posterity," it has been said, "delights in details." Two figures in the lapse of little more than one decade are prominent in early New England history and arrest attention. The one Miles Standish of Plymouth, the other John Mason of Windsor. Both trained to arms in the low countries, both men of strong characteristics as well as sentiment. But it is only with the latter that we have to do.

Saybrook Fort, from the time of its construction, had been seemingly the particular object of Indian suspicions, perhaps animosity. The neighborhood before 1637 had been witness of scenes the most shock-

ing and barbarous, and in subsequent years they were not less so, if the records of writers be reliable, as presumably they are, and it is notable that the pen of the colorist in its artificial and marvelous has so lightly invaded its precincts.

In May, of the year aforesaid, Mason, with ninety men and about seventy Mohigan, or Mohican Indians under Uncas, Chief of that tribe, left Hartford in three little vessels—a pennace, Pink & Shallop—for the purpose of destroying the Pequot forts or camps, near what is now New London and Mystic. As they dropped down the river, the Indians, unused to confinement and restriction became restless, and upon application Mason permitted them to land and continue the journey on foot. This they did. On the Monday following—the 15th—the little vessels arrived at Saybrook.

Here was Uncas and his men awaiting. They had proved their loyalty by capturing eight Pequots. One of these had sometime been an inmate of the Fort, and was known at that time as a notorious scamp and perfidious villian. The seven men he held as prisoners at the Fort, while the former was turned over to the disposal of Uncas and his followers. Needless to say further than that they roasted him, tore his limbs from the trunk and ate him. Not long previous, in a foray upon Wethersfield by the Pequots, among others abducted were two young women. These were held captives, and their captors had condemned them to die. The Dutch Governor at New Amsterdam—Kieft—learning of this sent an agent in a vessel with instructions to purchase these of the Pequots. Upon his arrival at the camp of the latter, they refused to entertain any proposition tending to that end, and the efforts of the agent seemed about to become fruitless.

Whether the Dutch held any Pequots as prisoners is not now certain, or whether those now at Saybrook, or held elsewhere, is equally uncertain, but it was at length proposed to exchange for the two young women six captive Pequots. The proposition was agreed to, and the girls were at the Fort when Mason arrived. Kieft had upon gaining possession of these turned them over to the English, and delivered them to Fenwick at that time and for a long time in charge of that port. Kieft's record has been repeatedly assailed, and charges had been made against him of infamous acts; but assuredly this generous and kindly exhibition on his part, only so far as humanity and sympathy were concerned utterly gratuitous, were duly and suitably acknowledged, and should have been lastingly remembered. Those at all conversant with what has been said of Kieft's treatment of the Indians on the Jersey shore, will recognize the reference here made. From these late captives Mason obtained information as to the intended

movements of the Pequots, and from his scouts on shore that the Pequot spies were observing his every movement from their hiding places. The girls were subsequently restored to their surviving friends at Wethersfield.

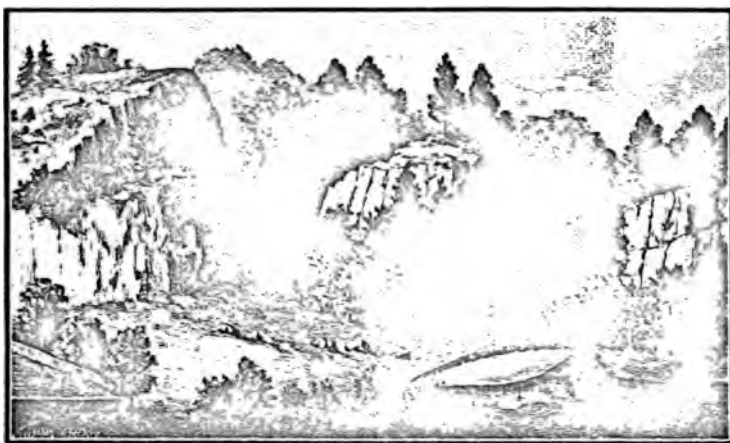
The report of the surveillance by the Pequot spies were afterward ascertained to be that the expedition had gone further eastward, probably to Block Island. With the facts now before him and the information gained, Mason, after consultation, determined to sail for Narragansett Bay. His previous place had been in accordance with the arrangements before leaving Hartford, to land on the east side of the river opposite Saybrook and march to the Pequot's defence, leaving twenty of his men at the Fort to return for the defence at Hartford, and taking in their place Captain Underhill and twenty men from Massachusetts—who had of late garrisoned Saybrook—he proceeded on his way.

The vessel arriving at Narragansett on the 20th, the next day with Captain Underhill and a guard he visited the Camp Canonched, Canonicus or Nauametto, the son of Meantonmah, chief Sachem of the Narragansetts. Canonicus immediately dispatched a runner for Miantonomah, who arrived not long after, from his own camp. Mason informed him of the object of his expedition, its strength, and requested Miantonomah's permission that he might pass over his territory. The Sachem approved of his purpose and readily assented to his request. He, however, told Mason that his "force was insufficient, that the Pequots were great Captains, and skilled in war, and that they were many"—but that he would send men; which he did.

About this time a message from Captain Patrick, who had been despatched from Massachusetts with forty men to co-operate with Mason, and who had just reached Providence, was received. Captain Patrick in his message requested Mason to remain where he then was until he, Patrick, could join and co-operate with him. Mason, however, upon consultation resolved otherwise; reasoning upon the possibility of his advance reaching the ears of the Pequots, whom it was very important that he should surprise. He therefore determined to move without the assistance of Captain Patrick. At this point many Indians who stood in fear of the Pequots joined Mason's force, so that when finally, he left the Narragansett's camps he had with him some five hundred belonging to the several camps of the latter tribe. The Camps of Ninegrit, Ninegrate or Ninceraft, another chief of that tribe was situated some short distance west, within the boundary of Pawtucket, afterward Sotherton, now Stonington. Mason's force was moved to Ninegrit's Camp, but his reception was cool and the chief distant. He hated the Pequots, and his love for the whites was by no means of the

### THE PEQUOT WAR.

owing kind. He would suffer none of Mason's men to enter his camp. Now Mason himself, well knowing Indian nature, and thinking it possible though not probable that a message might be conveyed to the Pequots, he determined that as none of his men were permitted to enter the camp, none should go out. He therefore posted a cordon of sentinels to that end, and encamped for the night. The Pequot scouts having witnessed Mason's departure from the mouth of the Connecticut river, had so reported and it was concluded by them that he had gone rather east, and dare not attack them. At this very time they were reveling in their camps, upon the inference that the English feared to come near their stronghold. On the following morning many of the Ninegets men came from camp and added themselves to Mason's force.



PORTER'S ROCKS.

Ninegets himself was inwardly in accord with the movement, his policy forbidding its disclosure. Mason well knew that his allies though not to be relied upon when the great struggle came, were in no sense disposed to be otherwise than true in their friendship to him. They, however, boasted of their powers and of what daring things they could do and what deeds they would perform in the coming contest. On the march that day which was very hot, some of the men by reason of exertion became very faint, and a halt was made. His allies now inquired of Mason his real intentions and did not conceal their dread of the Pequots. He told them he had come to fight. Many were dismayed and returned at once to their camps. The march resumed about three miles further on they came to a cornfield, and Mason calling his guards around him inquired the distance to the Pequot Fort. One Miquash, a Pequot, who for some fancied or real wrong done him by his tribes, had left it and joined the English, and remained true, gave

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the required information which was afterward verified. He said that the Fort at Mystic was but a short distance further on, but that of Sassacus himself, who was chief sachem of the Pequots, was about fourteen miles further on. For the reason that the men evinced indications of fatigue, and the heat oppressive, it was determined to encamp, and the next morning make the attack. As daylight disappeared Mason established his outposts. When they reported, those stationed in the direction of the Pequot camp said they heard the revelry within. The night was clear and moonlight. The encampment was made between the rocks, since known as Porter's Rock. About two hours before dawn, Mason put his troops in motion, two miles further on he sent for Uncas and Nequash. In answer to his inquiries they said that the Fort was just at the hill now before them. To his inquiries as to the other Indians his later allies, they said they were "much afraid," but were in the rear. He said, "tell them not to run away but stand where they pleased, and see whether Englishmen would fight." As the day dawned, he pushed forward, Mason had a part of his force up the northeasterly ascent, while Underhill had the other up the southwesterly slope. When within about a rod of the palings a dog barked, and at once an Indian within shouted "Oh, Wanux, Wanux!" Yet there was no general alarm. Still pushing on Mason directed a volley from his muskets through the defences, then wheeling to the right the troops reached the entrance obstructed with small trees and bush serving for gates, easily thrown aside they entered, as afterward expressed "sword in hand." Here it was they encountered resistance, at once impetuous and desperate. But the defenders were shortly driven towards the westerly side of the enclosure and sought protection in the dwellings. This enclosure contained just about two acres of ground. The principal street if of sufficient distinction to merit the term, was soon cleared and the dwellings or wigwams were in great measure their refuge. Some in their efforts to scale the palings fell back, arrested by the shots from the muskets. The fight then for the most part was in the wigwams. Those were ruthlessly assailed. It was "hand to hand." So numerous and furious and desperate were the Pequots that it was with great difficulty the white men sustained a defence sword in hand. As an instance, it is related that as Mason was vigorously maintaining the attack an Indian a few feet from him had drawn an arrow in his bow, full to the head; at the instant of its discharge one of Mason's followers seeing the impending peril, cut the bowstring with his sword. Affairs were becoming desperate, Mason ever alert for advantage, observing that the dwellings were covered with mats, now, by reason of the somewhat unusual drought had be-

come very dry, shouted, "we must burn them." Seizing a brand he applied it to a mat and the entire roof was in flames.

Underhill not quite so fortunate as to means, filled the pan of his gun with powder turned it partially on its side, flashed his piece, an almost as quickly as Mason, had fired another wigwam. It was now but a brief moment, and every dwelling was in flames. As the material being very dry the whole work of destruction was short. The roar of the conflagration, the reports of the fire arms and the yells of the savages were terrific. The flames revealing forms of Indians, they became no difficult mark for the aim of their foe. The Mohicans and Narragansetts, seeing now that there could be but one issue to the contest, were no longer onlookers only. The English formed, so far as numbers would permit, a complete circle around the palings to prevent any



THE ABOVE IS A NORTH VIEW OF PEQUOT HILL IN GROTON, AND ABOUT EIGHT MILES NORTHEAST FROM NEW LONDON. THIS SPOT WILL EVER BE MEMORABLE, ON ACCOUNT OF ITS BEING THE PLACE WHERE THE FIRST REGULAR CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ENGLISH AND THE NATIVES OF NEW ENGLAND TOOK PLACE; HERE THE BLOW WAS STRUCK BY WHICH THE SALVATION OF THE INFANT COLONY OF CONNECTICUT WAS EFFECTED, AND THE REIGN OF THE HAUGHTY, WARLIKE AND POWERFUL PEQUOT TRIBE OF INDIANS CAME TO AN END. HERE MASON ACCOMPLISHED THE CONQUEST OF THE PEQUOT TRIBE WHICH STRUCK TERROR TO THE INDIAN TRIBES IN NEW ENGLAND, THAT THEY HAD NO OPEN WAR WITH THE COLONIES FOR NEARLY FORTY YEARS AFTERWARDS. THE HILL REPRESENTED ABOVE IS COMMANDING AND BEAUTIFUL, THOUGH NOT STEEP.

escapes; in the rear of this line the Indian allies formed a second and complete cordon. In many instances it was said that the Pequots, rendered desperate by the destruction of the camp, rushed in large numbers upon the British line, only to turn back and throw themselves into the flames. So long as resistance continued the firing was kept up until the



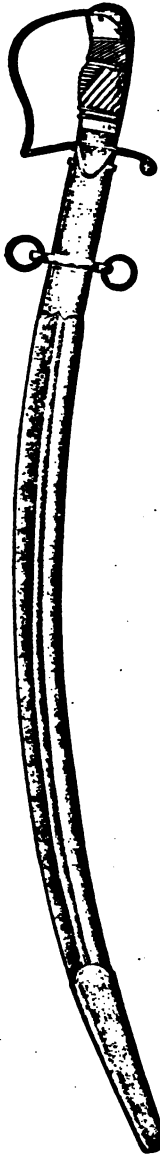
Pequots had disappeared, the last dwelling had sunk to ashes, and nothing but these were left at sunrise to show where the defence had stood.

Seven Pequots remained in the hands of the victors. These, only, with seven others who escaped, remained alive of the six hundred who were tenants of the camp. One hundred and fifty "warriors," who the night previous had left the camp of Sapacus to go out on an expedition against the English, were among the slain. Two of Mason's men had fallen and twenty were wounded: also, a number of Indian allies. The victory, though so complete, left Mason and his command in strained circumstances. He was in an enemies' country, almost destitute of provisions, the same as to ammunition, with twenty wounded men on his hands. His vessel which had been instructed to go around to Pequot (New London) harbor, nowhere in sight. To aid this, there appeared interposed to his advance three hundred Pequots from the Fort Sassacus. He was sensible that he "had business on his hands."

The Narragansetts and Mohicans were employed to transport the wounded and getting his command into form, he began to march towards Pequot. The body of Indians in front showed a determination to oppose him and disputed the ground. By the delivery of a volley, they yelled and moved on his flank. Just then the vessels appeared steering for their appointed port. The Pequots went up to their appointed site of the late fort, saw its desolation and in rage and dismay rushed headlong upon the rear of the moving column of Mason's men. Underhill was covering here, and as the Indians dashed upon him, his muskets poured out their contents and many of the Pequots fell before the volley. The Indians withdrew and the allies of Mason rushed upon the slain for the coveted trophy. The Pequots continued to harass the march of the command, by dodging from rock to tree and occasionally were shot. The allied Narragansett or Mohican never failing to obtain the scalp of the victim. This proceeding was kept up till the little vessels were reached and all were safely on board. On arriving at Hartford, they were received with evident satisfaction and gratitude. The command had been absent just three weeks. The sword which Capt., afterward Major General, Mason, wore on that memorable expedition is now in possession of Richard A. Wheeler, Esq., of Stonington, then Pawtucket, where the expedition had encamped with the Narragansetts two nights.

The Pequot country is described as lying within the boundaries of the three towns of New London, Groton and Stonington, and it must be their territory extended considerably northward of these; but a description of this matter is not at present of moment. To the North still

further were the lands of the Mohegans the former were held as the more war like of any New England tribe. By some it has been said that at an earlier epoch both these tribes existed as one.



SWORD WORN BY  
MAJOR-GENERAL  
JOHN MARON.

The first white man who took up his abode in Pawtucket, or on that tract, so called, was William Cheeseborough. He had been living at Rehoboth, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, or Plymouth Colony. It was in 1549 that he went to Pawtucket. It was charged against him that he was in illicit trade with the Indians, repairing arms, etc. Upon this complaint he was called before a Connecticut tribunal. Here he was reprimanded for withdrawal from Christian Society, for settling upon land without approval and for trading with the Indians. Confessing his errors he excused himself, saying he had been encouraged to do so by Mr. Winthrop, afterward Governor who claimed right to land of Pawtucket. Upon this showing and property interest, sympathy, or other things before this tribunal, he was allowed to remain giving sureties for good conduct. At the same time he was promised that if he should procure a sufficient number of planters he should have all proper encouragement in making a permanent settlement of the town. In that same year some twelve families made their homes on those lands. There had been, still was, and for many years afterward continued a controversy between the Connecticut and Massachusetts colonies, as to jurisdiction over this portion of territory, extending from the Connecticut River even to Narragansett Bay. It extended over a period, from first to last, of more than a hundred years.

The first planters of Pawtucket were Geo. Dennison, Thomas Shaw, Thomas Stanton, William, Elisha, and Samuel Cheeseborough, Moses and Walter Palmer and others. These mutually entered into a compact to govern themselves, and conduct their affairs in peace until the controversy as to jurisdiction should be determined. The General Court of Massachusetts was petitioned for a grant of land stretching from the mouth of the Mystic River toward Wekapaug, and eight miles northward into the country. The petition was allowed and the place called Sotherton, now Stonington. This jurisdiction continued until 1663, when Connecticut again asserted

her claim and forbade the exercise of any other authority. Upon several occasions these planters applied to Massachusetts for relief and protection, and at length upon reference to the Commissioners for the other colonies, that "affairs should be respited for a season, pending an amicable settlement of the controversy, and that Sotherton's affairs be conducted as formerly." In 1662, the assembly of Connecticut resolved that the inhabitants of Mystic and Pawtucket should no longer exercise any authority by virtue of any commissioners from any other colony, but should elect their town officers and manage their affairs according to the laws of the province.

In 1665, the King's Commissioners, Sir Robert Carr, Cartwright and Maverick held session at Sotherton for the hearing of complaints of the Indians, and as to the titles of the English to land. In 1674 a court was instituted and commenced at that place for the government of the people of Narragansett, "that they might live in dissolute practices to the dishonor of God, the King and Nation, and the scandalizing of the very heathens." Now what had these people of Narragansett done. What crimes committed against the peace and dignity of this august tribunal?

#### CHAPTER II.

Soon after the breaking out of King Philip's war, 1675, Capt. Avery, in command of forty men from New London, Stonington and Lyme, together with some Pequot Indians, was sent out for the protection of the frontiers. The inhabitants were gathered into the towns or settlement for protection and better security. Troops were raised in the State amounting to one thousand men, and ordered to rendezvous at New London and Stonington. This was to be done by the 10th of December of the same year. For some cause not now apparent they mustered at Pattyquamsett, about fifteen miles northeasterly from Stonington. On the 19th these troops marched to Narragansett, and near Kingston River, "the great swamp fight" took place. This was probably the most fierce and dreadful encounter of the whole Indian wars. The weather was very cold and tempestuous, the snow very deep, the men without shelter for two days and nights. The swamps surrounding the Indian defences was almost impenetrable, the stockade composing the outer line, with the stubborn resistance of its inmates, almost defying the efforts of the assailants. At length, rather by strategy than otherwise, success was attained. But after reaching Pattyquamsett on the return march, it was realized at what suffering and sacrifice the object had been accomplished.

The fight occurred on Sunday. It broke the power of the Narra-

gansetts as a great tribe, and from that it never recovered its strength as it formerly existed. Soon after the fight the surviving Narragansetts betook themselves to the Nipmuck tribe, a body of Indians inhabiting that part of Massachusetts about and to the northward of Brookfield. As a parting souvenir, they took with them from one farmer in Warwick, R. I., sixteen horses, fifty head of cattle and two hundred sheep. This was in January. In the February following, with the Nipmucks they fell upon Lancaster and burned it, killing and capturing forty of its inhabitants. Soon after this they attacked Medfield, killed twenty persons and burned most of the buildings. In March they assailed Northampton, Springfield, Chelms, Groton, Sudbury and Marlborough in Massachusetts, and Providence and Warwick in R. I. Some of these villages were wholly and others partially destroyed. Many of the inhabitants were killed, some made captives.

Captain Wadsworth, with a Lieutenant Brattlebank, and fifty-six men, were marched through Sudbury, where they were ambushed and every man killed. A certain Captain Pierce, with fifty men from Plymouth and twenty Indian allies, were attacked and every white man and most of the Indians killed. It was under these circumstances as well as others similar that Captain George Dennison, with a company of men was sent out from Sotherton in search of these marauders. Miantomah, the former sachem of the Narragansetts was now dead. He had been taken prisoner by Uncas and after being taken by him to Boston to ascertain the judgment of the whites there, he was given up to Uncas who, on his return to his own people, caused him to be tomahawked. He was succeeded by his son, Canonicus, Canonchett or Nannunetts, who inherited all his father's pride, insolence and hatred of the English. In most, probably all, of these assaults in Massachusetts, as related, he had been a participant. Captain Dennison left Sotherton on the 27th of March, 1676, this was in the Spring following "the great swamp fight." He had been out some days and finding no trace of Indians was about to return, when some Indian footprints were found in the sand on the banks of the Blackstone River. Soon after an Indian squaw was captured who wanted seed corn to plant in the abandoned land of the whites on the Connecticut River. It appeared that Canonicus had come down into his old haunts to supply his need and those of his people. From the captured squaw it was learned that there was an Indian in a wigwam near by. Captain Dennison immediately made arrangements for his capture, placing his men in such positions as to prevent if possible escape. At the moment Canonicus was in the wigwam relating to a number of Indians an account of the destruction of Captain Pierce and his command and boasting of his own power taken in the

work, Dennison and his men were by this time close up to the wigwam, but their disposition was not yet complete. One of the inmates detected the approach and alarmed the others, several of whom got away. Canonicus seized his gun, sprang from the house and fled. Catapaset, a Narragansett, who with some twenty others had accompanied Dennison's command, suspecting by the manner and general appearance of this fugitive—that is Nanunnetts—sprang after him in hot pursuit. When in Boston, the year previous, and before the breaking out of the war, Nanunnetts had been presented with a profusely trimmed coat, the trimming being of silver lace. Over this he wore a blanket, as the pursuit became uncomfortably warm, Nanunnetts threw off the latter, exposing his trimmed coat. But already Catapaset was quite well aware what the chase was. Now none could be mistaken. Canonicus was a large and powerful Indian, but here he was driven by numbers to expedient, and he ran for the river. The pursuit was pushed accordingly. Reaching the river, Canonicus leaped into the water. An instant later he slipped and fell wetting his gun. A Pequot Indian, Monoporde by name, swifter by foot than the others, was the first to overtake him. He seized the fugitive, who offered no resistance, and the latter was led back to the bank. Robert Stanton, a young Sotherton man was the first white man to come up. Stanton began to ply him with questions. The chieftain did not conceal his disdain. Haughtily condescending, in imperfect though not faulty English he replied, "You too much child to understand matters of war; let your chief come; him will I answer." Before his return to Sotherton, Captain Dennison, with his command killed and captured fifty Indians, and that without the loss of a man. It was considered that the expedition had been very successful. Perhaps the more so, as the three sachems, his war captains and counsellors had been made prisoners. Upon the proposition being submitted to Canonicus, that his life should be spared provided he would enter into a treaty of peace with the English, he refused, nor would he entertain any proposition tending in that direction. When informed that unless some such arrangement could be made his life would be demanded, he said, "He liked it well that he should die before his heart was soft or that he said anything unworthy of himself."

This occurred at Sotherton, and in accordance with the sentence he was executed by the Mohegans and Pequots soon after by shooting.

Three companies raised in New London, Norwich and Stonington, during the spring and summer following, killed and took as prisoners three hundred and fifty Indians, and excepting those at Westerly, R. I., under Ninegret, drove all out of the country without the loss of a man.

Governor Hutchinson said that, "the bravery of the Connecticut

men had not been adequately rewarded, and Dennison's name should be perpetuated."

With the close of this campaign, the trouble with the Indians may be said to be over in this particular section, and it is true that during this war Connecticut suffered little in comparison with Massachusetts. Her most serious loss was in men in the "Great Swamp."

The vexations and protracted dispute, delay and struggle which had existed in relation to the jurisdiction over the Eastern portion of Connecticut, was not yet terminated. After several hearings and examinations it was adjudged and decreed that the territory and lands east from the Connecticut River to Narragansett Bay of right ought to belong to Connecticut, but exception was made to that part lying east from Pawtucket River, which finally went to Rhode Island. Such in brief is its history.

In 1690, Mr. John Frink, of Sotherton, and Mr. Thomas Liffingwell, of Norwich, surviving volunteers in "King Phillip's War," petitioned the General Assembly to set off a tract of land six miles square, to be taken from the conquered land. The petition was granted and confirmed, lying north from Sotherton, and to be called Voluntown. In 1705 there was convened at Sotherton what was known as Dudley's Commission. Its services were held for the trial of claims to land lying north and west from the town, as far as Connecticut River. The names of Owanaco, a Mohegan Indian, James Mason, the descendent of Major General John Mason, the latter promoted to that rank, one Hallam and others appeared on the record as claimants. The history of this whole affair is an interesting one, and is an illustration of the extent to which men will allow their greed and avarice to carry them. Joseph Dudley sometime Governor of Massachusetts, was doubtless the main spring of this trouble to the people, but he was eventually defeated in his scheme. It was seventy years, however, ere a settlement and a conclusion was reached.

From this time to the period of the Revolution there appears little of stirring character to attract attention in Stonington's affairs, as events followed events. The result of the British legislation, the colonist, who had upon almost all occasions manifested their readiness and ability to take care of their own affairs and maintain their position unaided, for the most part relying upon their own resources, more and more became sensible that there was a disposition on the part of the home administration to impose upon them burdens which were justified by no basis of right. The most conspicuous demonstration of this, it seemed to these people, was at Boston and there for the most part the gaze was directed. With the year 1775 the struggle in resistance of

these aggressions had come. But five years before this, they had seen the streets of Boston the scenes of blood. These excitements had been subdued, public sentiment was not quite matured. Lexington and Concord had ripened it. Her preamble setting forth the causes of resolutions adopted in town meetings assembled, showed that Stonington was not to see and remain a silent witness of what was passing. At the same time ways and means were devised and provided for relief. She also raised and provided men for the exigencies of the hour. Both the means and the men were sent forward, and to General Joseph Warren was adapted a communication breathing the spirit of the occasion as well as the willingness and readiness to sacrifice for the cause. To this he soon after responded in appropriate sentiment. At the Battle of Bunker Hill, on the 17th June of the year afore mentioned Stonington was represented in the Connecticut troops under Major Knowlton. It is here worthy of remark, that the entire amount of powder for defence on that occasion was sixty three half barrels. Connecticut contributed thirty six half barrels more; the stock was therefore in all forty nine and one half barrels.

In the contest succeeding these events, there existed the Tory element; and particularly along the shore towns of Connecticut was there almost constant manifestation of its presence. To the naval arm of Great Britain besides being a source of supply, it also was one of never failing information. Their means and method of obtaining such, by no means inconsiderable, were always a menace to the Whigs. Cruisers in the "sound" were common, and they were ever alert for communications with their friends. Through this channel all their supply of fresh provisions was obtained. The epithet, "Connecticut Blue Lights," than which none aroused livelier retort, possibly retaliation of more demonstrative character, could be invoked.

In August 1775 the frigate *Rose*, Capt. Wallace, was off Stonington. On the 20th he "reached in" and sent his boat ashore bearing a demand for certain cattle there belonging. The alternation offered was that, unless a compliance herewith was at once manifest, he should proceed immediately to make seizure by force. It was not that they considered the matter in which request were usually made for such things, they were a trifle out of humor that morning, and besides they wouldn't let him have the cattle anyhow, and so the boat returned "bearing tidings." Then there was mustering on board that ship in "hot haste." Her boats were at once made ready, and properly manned, left the ship on the errand of seizure. How or by what means the neighboring country side had become informed of what was transpiring in Stonington and her harbor, the chronicles do not set forth, nevertheless its people got

them just the same, and the male "persuasion" came bearing the old Kings or Queens arm, a weapon of high repute in those days.

For a public safety a company of State Militia had for some little time been stationed at Stonington, under command of Captain Oliver Smith. The name of Amos Gallup appears as sergeant, and there is mention of George and William Dennison and others, but in what capacity is unrecorded, in all twenty men. Also a hasty organization was effected of those who had come in as stated. William Stanton was chosen as Captain. The two companies were at first posted in what was known, possibly still is, as the Robinson Pasture, just north of the site of the Wadawanack Hotel. As the boats left the ship, the two companies were moved down to Brown's Wharf. As the boats approached and neared the wharf the "old flint locks" were leveled on the advance and a shower of hissing missiles sent around the ears of the occupants, with the effect that they went around on "their heels," and sought safely under the frowning battery of the frigate. As Captain Wallace had himself been a witness of the affair he could make his own report, if he saw fit, without the aid of his officer in charge of the boats.

It was reported that several were killed and wounded in the attempt, but it is not positively known.

On board this ship was one Stephen Packham, a native and inhabitant of Stonington and vicinity, a Tory acting as pilot for the Rose. His knowledge and skill as a seaman was now to be turned to the account of the destruction, as far as he was able, of his own homestead. He worked the ship into favorable position, let go his anchor and sprung her broadside on to the village. His part of the performance being accomplished, her guns were trained and the ship opened fire. This continued for several hours. No material damage resulted, and the cattle presumably, what he was firing for not coming off, to stop it by surrendering at discretion. Captain Wallace concluded to get his anchor and hands off, and so he did. As time came around, the pilot, Stephen, one day indiscreetly trusted his precious person within reach of some of Stonington's wrathful people. Strong hands were laid on him, he was taken to the point, treated to a thorough "dressing down," and allowed to take himself off under penalty of return, which he faithfully observed to the close of the war. It was about this time that David Bushnell, then of Saybrook, a graduate of Yale, invented what has been termed the American Turtle. It may be said to be the forerunner of the torpedo of later years. Repeated attempts were made with it to destroy the English cruisers, but in no case successful, though on one or two occasions, very nearly so. Yet the average mind of the Briton, in consequence of these things became from that time



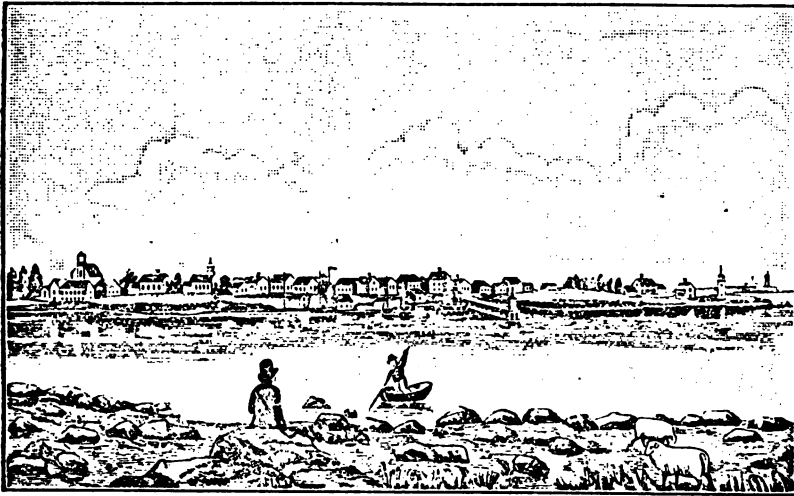
burdened with apprehensions of their potency and possibilities. Although other points along the Connecticut shore during this war were made the object of special attention by the English war, in which there was experienced the grinding process so destructive to American commerce. In the adjustment of these claims subsequently between the representative Governments of the United States and France, the truth is that the proceeds of the plundered citizens of Connecticut passed into the hands of the former for settlement, and though oft repeated reports by committees in favor of the claimants in interest have been submitted, Congress persistently refuses to surrender the plunder so obtained, or do or act anything respecting the same. And there are many in needy circumstances whose rights are thus unjustly withheld. But through this wide period of comparative quiet, there were other disturbing factors in action, chief of which was the subject of impressment of Americans for the supply of seamen for British war ships, although a formal declaration was not made for six years, it is probable that the affair of the Chesapeake and Leopard, off Hampton Roads, in 1806, was as potent in its influence as any.

It is not a little curious that before the close of that struggle almost every vestige of prominent cause leading to it had, by extraneous circumstances become extinct and a final accommodation made upon other questions. Early in the first stages of that struggle, that is to say Oct. 12th, Stephen Decatur, in the United States frigate had met the Macedonian of about the same class—as always claimed, somewhat heavier—off the Western Islands, and after a short and fierce engagement dismantled her and took possession. While the prize was comparatively little injured, otherwise she was a complete cripple. The victor was uninjured, so that Decatur declared that he could have gone into action the next day. He returned with his prize, and in December came into the Sound by the eastern passage and sought a harbor at Stonington. Not long afterward he took the prize to New York, where both ships were refitted and prepared for sea.

The summer of 1813 was somewhat advanced ere he was again ready to sail. In 1790, Stonington contained a population of 5,648 while New London enumerated 4,600. The maritime interests of all the shore towns was considerable, largely directed to the French Colonies in the West Indies. In 1794 Great Britain put in action her rule that all vessels laden with goods the product of any French Colony, or carrying provisions or supplies of such colony be seized and brought into an English port for adjudication; but the order enforcing this rule was privately circulated among the officers of the ship, squadrons and fleets. In this way and covered by pretended claims of violations, ves-

sel after vessel was seized, taken into English ports and condemned.

In June 1811 Sir William Scott in vice admiralty proceeding, at one sitting, recorded decrees against twenty eight American vessels, seized since the preceeding November, and libeled, amounting to \$832,500. Thus many millions of American property was absorbed by Great Britain, without shadow of right.



THE BOROUGH OF STONINGTON IN 1801.

#### CHAPTER III.

In 1801 Stonington was incorporated as a borough. Her grievance had been such that in 1809 her people were assembled in town meeting and by dint of preamble and resolution, said and did as much as possible for her to do in overwhelming, defeating and confusing the power that had deprived her of her revenues and stripped her of that which rightfully was hers. Some of her people subsequently were of the opinion that these acts, were in part at least the cause that drew down upon them the visitation yet to be referred to, but it is almost safe to say that the action of that town meeting was about as effectual as the embargo established by the General Government previous to the war. They were of about equal force and effect; but there was that behind, and in the province of the people themselves, which taught the "haughty flag" that it could be met at its own tilting match, with the chances equally in favor of others as well as itself. The blockade declared by the same power to exist, really made little difference after the declara-

tion of war, for very much the same state of affairs existed long before she had been so powerful on the seas, that she dictated her own terms, and they were observed. But soon now a change "came o'er the spirit of her dream." In every quarter of the globe she was made to feel the example of her own setting. The method differed slightly from her own. In four months from the 18th day of June, 1812, New York fitted out and sent to sea twenty six privateers, carrying 212 guns and 2,239 men. In the same time Baltimore, in like manner sent to sea 17 privateers, 25 Letters of Marque; they were called Baltimore Flyers, with 330 guns and 3,000 men. In six months they had captured and destroyed of the British public and private, armed and unarmed vessels 319, averaged at \$40,000; the aggregate would be \$12,180,600. It is worthy of remark that three of these were first class frigates. This was earnest, ruthless and determined war. Early in October 1812, Decatur in the U. S. frigate had met the Macedonia off the Western Islands and after a short engagement had dismasted her, and taken possession. The victor was so little injured that Decatur declared he could have gone into action the next day. He with his prize and in December entered the sound by the eastern passage and sought a harbor at Stonington. Not long after he took his prize to New York where both ships were refitted and prepared for war. The summer of 1813 was somewhat advanced ere he was ready to sail.

Upon the return of the United States frigate with her prizes, Capt. Decatur related this incident in connection with the captures. After the Macedonia was made out and it was certain that an engagement would follow, a boy, the son of a seaman who died, came to him and said: "Sir, I wish my name may go on the payroll." "Why so, my lad?" "So I may have a share in the prize money," he replied. His request was granted and when the distribution was made the boy received two hundred dollars; of this he gave a half to his mother, the other half was mostly expended in obtaining an education. The gallant commander subsequently procured for him a commission as midshipman. Captain Decatur found on board of the Macedonia six impressed seamen, one of them, Charles Dolphin, was a native of Connecticut. He was twenty-two years of age. When impressed, it will be observed, he was about sixteen, and that is the way Britain acted.

On the 24th day of May, 1814, Decatur, with the United States in company with the Macedonia and Corvette Hornet, in attempting to go to sea from New York through the Narrows, were opposed by a superior force, and returning dropped down the East River into the Sound and made sail, intending to go to sea by the East passage. When about off Watch Hill they were again met by a large force, and it is said that

Decatur at first discovering this force thought his strength sufficient to cope with the vessels then in sight, and did make preparations to that end, but sail after sail rising in succession, he retired into Stonington Harbor. As the means of defence here he regarded inadequate, and anticipating an attack in a short time, he moved his ships around to New London, where he was soon afterward blockaded by a squadron of the enemy. The ships were hauled about five miles up the river, moored, and as the instructions from Admiral Cochrane to Commodore Hardy, in command of the squadron were to detain Decatur's ships, "for a year and a day," he was, as it were "bottled-up" till the close of the war. The blockading force consisted of two seventy-fours, a Razee, a frigate and bomb ship. These were subsequently re-enforced, and among the ships added were the *Endymion* and *Staliva*, either about equal force of the United States and *Macedonia*. After the affair of the *Constitution* and *Guerriere*, instructions were issued from the English War Office to Naval Commanders not to go into action with a force unless it be of lesser strength than such commander could present. And upon information of the facts attending the loss of the *Peacock* and her destruction by the *Hornet*, a Halifax newspaper commented after this manner: "If our ship—the *Peacock*—had been at anchor and designed as a special target for the enemy—*Hornet*—she could not have been quicker sunk." And added by way of punctuation, presumably, "these Americans are a dead nip," and also repeated the instructions already quoted.

But the *Hornet's* sting was gone. A little incident will show the temper of the parties and the imposed restraint. On board the *Remillies*, flagship of the blockading force, was a prisoner, a certain Captain Moran. Standing on deck one day near a group of the ships' officers, engaged in conversation, he heard the remark from Commander Hardy, that "he should have no objections to a meeting between one of his own frigates and one of the Americans, that they might try conclusions, but that the proposition must not issue from either of his officers." A short time after Captain Moran was paroled, when he joined the vessels in the river, or as soon thereafter as convenient he related the incident to Decatur. Captain Biddle was at once dispatched with a message to Commander Hardy in compliance with the proposition let fall by himself. Captain Biddle returned with the information that an answer would be returned by flag on the next day. Decatur at once assembled his officers and crews, and to them stated what so far had transpired. It was received with the most lively satisfaction, and great cheering by the crews, who began at once to anticipate some activity after prolonged quiet. The answer came with the flag, how-

ever, that the meeting was declined. It was inferred that it exceeded instructions. For the defence of Stonington the general government had placed their two eighteen-pound guns, and there was another, a four-pound gun. The people of that place assisting a guard of militia stationed there, threw up a defensive work, the northerly termination of which rested at what was later the southeast corner of Atwood's Silk Factory. Apprehensive that it was the intention of the enemy to attack and burn the place, application was made to the State Executive, Roger Griswold, for assistance.

During the year 1813, there were six detachments ordered there. The first of which consisted of twenty-three men under command of Major Horatio G. Lewis, who, being a native of Stonington, a very active military officer of the 8th Co., 13th Regt., Connecticut militia, and in all respects to be relied on in case of emergency, was placed in charge and so continued until the exigencies of the troubles ceased to demand further attention. Major Lewis' rank was soon advanced to that of Brevet-Major. Names of the first twenty-three citizens to wit: Major, Horatio G. Lewis; Commander, Allen Palmer; Sergeants, Hosen Grant, Joshua Brown; Second Corporal, George Olmstead; Drummer, Augusta L. Babcock; Fifer, James Crandell; Privates, Thomas Gier, Jesse Chapman, Elias Chapman, Thomas H. Edwards, John Coutts, Richard W. Berry, Ezekiel Baily. Eldridge Whipple, Amos Baldwin, Calch Woodward, Daniel Dewey, Samuel Burdick, Amos Cheeseborough, Russell Bentley, Nathaniel Lewis. Another detachment of twenty-two men under same commander, Major H. G. Lewis, names of whom were to wit: Sergeant, Gurdon Trumbull; Corporal, David Starr; Second Corporal, Alexander G. Smith; Privates, Joseph Cotton, Joseph Frink, Amos Hancock, Isaac Loper, Benjamin Merrill, Amos Taylor, Hamilton White, Nathan Wilcox, Samuel Burch. The disposition of the naval force at the mouth of the river in the month of October created no little alarm in Stonington, and to him the inhabitants of Stonington applied for protection. In turn he communicated with Lieut-Col. Randall of the 30th Regt. Connecticut militia. He at once issued the following instructions to Major Commanding H. G. Lewis, 8th Company 30th Regt. Connecticut militia:

SIR:—Pursuant to an order received from His Excellency, the Capt-General, dated October 29th, 1813, directing me to detach from the Regiment under my command, one subaltern, two corporals, and twenty-six privates for a guard at Stonington, to serve under you from the first of November, 1813, until the 30th of the same month inclusive, unless sooner discharged. You are therefore detached to take command of said guard, and will receive them under your care as soon as they arrive. You will make immediate application to Brig-Gen. Bur-

bank at New London for provisions, to whom also you will apply for orders and to whom you will make report from time to time as he shall direct.

Given under my hand at Stonington, this 4th day of November, 1813.

Signed,

WILLIAM RANDALL, Lieut-Col. 30th Regt.

As affairs continued quiet at the close of the month that detachment was discharged, and no further demonstrations appearing they so remained through the winter following. As the spring opened the activity of the blockading squadron was not only resumed, but its force considerably augmented. But nothing escaped the vigilance of the garrison at Fort Trumbull. General Cushing, now district commander at that post was applied to for further aid. A detachment of forty seven men were ordered to report to Major H. G. Lewis, but the only names composing the said detachment, as accessible are here given. Sargeants Peleg Hancock and Russell Wheeler, Corporals John Yoe-mans, Elias Miner, Drummer John Hewit, and John Davis fifer. While this detachment lay at Stonington, the inhabitants both of New London and those on Groton Banks were alarmed on the 19th day of June, by the approach of a portion of the squadron under command of Thomas M. Hardy. In garrison at the two forts were about eight hundred men. It was part of the State Militia and subject to the orders of the Executive. At the opening of the hostilities, it is in order to say that upon requisition of the Secretary of War General Dearborn for a quota of troop coast defence, the Governor of the state declined to furnish them. The consequence of which no particular sentiments of compliance were bandied between them at this time. Without further demonstration however, the squadron retired, and on the 12th day of July, the Remil-lies, seventy-four, the Pactolus, Frigate and Bomb-ship, and brig Dispatch were detached and laid off Stonington.

#### CHAPTER IV.

It had been the practice of the officers of this squadron, whenever a boat or other vessel was discovered in the sound, "to overhaul" it and take whatever suited them, sometimes making compensation, sometimes not, as best suited them.

Vegetables and fresh provisions were for the most part obtained through the agency of the "Blue Lights," but they were equally effected through these channels; "all was fish that came to their nets." There is still living in Bridgeport an aged individual well along in the nineties who relates this. He was cultivating a small piece of ground at

Mystic, and that season was remarkably fortunate in the yield of his crops. An acquaintance one day remarked in conversation upon the abundance of the produce, and in such pointed manner that he was told "he was welcome to what he liked." The surprise of the donor may be conceived when he saw the other load his boat with vegetables, and to further aggravation, when he saw him take his load alongside one of the vessels and dispose of it at a price. We may assume that he was a "Blue Light." A short time before they reached their present position off Stonington, these vessels discovered a schooner in the sound not far off. The Remillies sent her boat to intercept her. Before reaching her she was abandoned by her crew who had got away in her boat. She was boarded by the "prize crew" who endeavored to get her alongside the Remillies, as she was apparently well stocked with fresh provisions and vegetables. But before being able to accomplish their purpose she was shattered into a thousand fragments by an explosion. Every soul on board went with the rest. She was the schooner Eagle and had been prepared for this purpose. There had been placed in her hold one of Bushnell's turtles. The intention was, as afterward disclosed, that she should be got alongside the vessel that captured her, but the clock work that was to serve as the "time fuse" was set too short, and the affair went off too quick, with the result as related. If the enterprise had been successful it must have ended in the destruction of any vessel near her. Commodore Hardy denounced the purpose as murderous, and such mode of warfare barbarous, worthy of savages only, and other complimentary terms. It is possible that just about that time, those little affairs that happened some thirty years and more previous about Wallabout Bay, and other points in New York harbor, the infernal acts of an agent of his government, one Cunningham, the "Black Hole of Calcutta," the Dartmoor Prison, the trifling matter of blowing men from gun muzzles, had escaped his mind just at that moment. All the same John Bull is John Bull, whether in America, Asia, Egypt or elsewhere.

On the 9th day of August following, when well in Stonington, Connecticut, Hardy sent away a flag from his ship. It was met by a boat from the shore containing Major Lewis, George Fellows, (a midshipman) then at home on furlough, and Elisha Faxon, Jr. From the flag officer they were handed a note reading in part as follows: "His Britanic Majesty's Ship Pactolus, August 9th, 1814, half past five o'clock. Not wishing to destroy the unoffending inhabitants residing in the town of Stonington, one hour is granted them from the receipt of *this* to remove all out of the village etc., and at the expiration of that time, he, Thomas M. Hardy, should proceed to lay the town in ashes; and concluded by saying his means were complete. To the question, whether

a flag from the town Magistrate would be received, the flag officer replied that no arrangements could be made. "Was it the determination of the Commodore to destroy the town." The answer was that such were the orders of Admiral Cochrane and his orders would be observed to the letter. The flag returned to the ship, and the other to the shore. The note was handed to and read by the Magistrate. Consternation at once seized upon the peaceful inhabitants of the hamlet. Delay now would be the extreme of folly. Females, and those incapable of assistance in the impending demolition, were at once removed. Such articles that were of use, so far as could be, were placed in safety. One instance is related in which is represented the wife of an officer (Major H. G. Lewis, mother of Ex-Sheriff G. W. Lewis, of Bridgeport,) prominent on that occasion. Packing up in tubs and baskets her valued china and glass and crockery wares, and sunk them into the well: then yoking the oxen and hitching them to the cart, placed some beds thereon, where she seated her children and left for the interior. The eldest of these, mentioned thereafter it will be observed, is still living. The articles secreted were subsequently recovered uninjured. Notwithstanding the time limit as fixed for withdrawal, it was not until 8 P. M. that the Bomb-ship was got into position to shell the town, and at that hour she commenced firing. Lieutenant Hough of Major H. G. Lewis' Co. of 30th Regiment with a few men were stationed at the point to observe any movement towards a landing from the ships. Major H. G. Lewis took charge of the battery. His detachment consisted of nine men, to wit: Captain William Potter, George Fallows, Ensign David Frink, Gurdon Trumbull, Alexander G. Smith, Amos Dennison Jr., Stanton Gallup, Ebenzer Morgan, and John Miner. As before stated, the battery consisted of two eighteen and one four pound guns; these were mounted on field carriages, and in a manner sheltered by a breastwork about five feet high. By the time these guns were ready it had become dark and the Bomb-ship was well illuminated by her "battle lanterns, all aglow." This presented a somewhat conspicuous target for the shore gunners, and they sighted their pieces with such nicety that their discharges smashed every lantern on board of the Bomb-ships, and for a time her decks were in darkness and her rigging badly cut. All the same the shore people sent them cheers, and soon their shelling was continued. There was about one hundred dwellings with adjoining out-houses and barns, a dozen stores, and three churches composing the village. Those were almost continuously lighted by the fire flashes from the ships. Up to the hour of midnight when it ceased, not a building had been burned nor a life destroyed, it may be said that no serious casualties had befallen the village.



After receiving the note from Com. Hardy, at the earliest practicable moment, a message was sent to General Cushing, at Fort Trumbull, for assistance. Not mindful of the progress of events, and the movements of the ships before New London, and considering the attack at Stonington might be merely a faint to cover other and important assaults elsewhere, arranged with Major General Williams, commanding the district, who at once issued an order for the mustering of one Regiment at Stonington, one at the head of the Mystic River, for the protection of the forts, one Regiment of Infantry and one company of Artillery at Norwich, for the security of the ships in the river (Decatur) and one Regiment to reinforce Fort Trumbull and protect New London.

Within a day or so previous to the receipt of this message, Gen. Cushing's watchfulness had increased because of the change of position of the ships in front of the fort. It was in view of all the attending circumstances that he at that time communicated with the Secretary of War upon the subject. At daylight on the 10th the members of the 30th Regiment ordered to that point began to arrive at Stonington in considerable numbers. Col. Randall, commanding the same also arrived. At the same time the Dispatch (gun-brig) was observed warped in on the west side of the town, and with the ships and barges engaged at once in throwing what were then known as Congreve rockets into the village with the view of more readily burning it. As the defensive battery was then placed it could be of no service, the enemies ships being beyond reach and the brig was in front of the point. The small gun was taken across to the east side to meet any attempt at landing. Seaweed was heaped up as a cover and the guns shotted and placed in position. A detachment of the militia and quite a number of volunteers accompanied the gun across the point, at the same time it was desirable to get one of the larger guns across also, as the number of the men connected with its working was insufficient for the purpose, Col. Randall promptly supplied the requisite aid from the regiment. The Dispatch was then warped further in and already several of the ship's barges were approaching her. The purpose was soon made apparent. They were joined by a barge from the brig, and thus enforced they approached the landing where the gun had been placed. The landing barge reaching such position as was thought comfortably near the little piece when our muskets sent forth such a welcome as to knock out completely every man on the first barge and do considerable injury to those following. These at once pulled back to the Brig. So much success had hardly been looked for by the defence and they were correspondingly elated. By this time the larger gun had arrived and was placed in position, but her service was brief, as the supply of ammunition was so nearly

exhausted the gun was spiked and the men withdrew. The Dispatch was now left to herself and was deliberately though actively engaged in the wreck. No reply was now possible. The village was seemingly at the mercy of the assailants. The fire from the Dispatch was principally of grape, that from the Pactolus, shells. After discharging her last shot, Major H. G. Lewis mounted his horse, a white one, and rode to the headquarters of the Regt-Commander, Col. Randall, for further supply of ammunition. On his return, dismounting in front of the village store he fastened his horse, and as he stepped away, a round shot from the Pactolus struck the horse, killing him instantly.

Needless to say the Major retraced his way on foot. The firing continued somewhat more than an hour without response from shore, when the defenders were cheered by the result of a fresh supply. The vents of the gun which had been spiked were drilled out, and the brig made the special object of complimentary attention. This fire was so successfully maintained that the brig was observed to run her chain out and drop it overboard fast to the anchor. She swung with the tide and dropped out of action, with her "pumps going." Her bottom had been, as was afterwards ascertained, repeatedly pierced and her rigging badly cut. As she fell off she was struck with a parting shot that pushed in at her stern, and went through her and out of her bow. Subsequently the people of Stonington searched for and recovered her anchor and cable, which may be seen at any time in that borough. While this action was in progress the flag over the little shore battery was shot away and fell. George Fellows at once caught it up, climbed the stump of the staff left standing, and nailed it there after the manner of Sergeant Joshua under Gen. Marion on another patriotic occasion.

A certain Dr. Lord, of the blue lights persuasion, attempted displacement. He was clad after the manner of that day, with knee-breeches, buckles, silk stockings, cocked hat, etc., and interposed himself to effect his purpose. A forcible admonition from Major H. G. Lewis warned him to betake himself to a safer distance and it was heeded. Frederick Dennison had been struck on the knee by a fragment of stone hurled by a shot from the brig, John Miner had been hurt by the premature discharge of a gun. These wounds though serious were not dangerous. Seven shot had passed through the flag which is still preserved at Stonington and spread to the breeze on gala occasions. The "breast-work" was pretty well shattered by the brig's missiles. Six or eight dwellings in the village were badly wrecked from the same source. In the course of this day, the 10th, most of the regiment under Col. Randall had arrived; Gen. Isham also arrived and assumed direction of military affairs. No further apprehensions of landing from

the ships were now entertained, and confidence among the people of the place was restored in great measure and things were assuming a more quiet and orderly aspect.

The Remillies, Pactolus and bomb ships were being warped in, and their position was such that the range of their guns could be made very effective, while the shore guns would be rendered out of service. And again the village was at the apparent mercy of the assailants. At this stage of affairs the Town Magistrates sent Col. Williams and Dr. Lord as a deputation to confer with Commodore Hardy upon the matter, and they also forwarded a communication in writing, informing him of the removal of its unoffending inhabitants in accordance with his note of the day previous. He was requested to inform them of his determination. On reaching the ship the boat which contained the deputation was returned, the two gentlemen remaining on board. In about an hour the deputation with a flag was sent back in the ship's boat. They were the bearers of a note from Commodore Hardy, the purpose of which was that, inasmuch as the deputation had assured him that no torpedoes had been made or prepared and that none should be in the future, or receive any aid or countenance in the town of Stonington, that further hostilities should cease, and that the village should be spared and held harmless, provided always upon condition. This is termed by fraternity, "the saving clause," and it appears by this instance to be reported so upon occasion by nautical men as well, that if the said town should be delivered to him, the said Hardy, on board the ship Remillies then lying and being in the port of said Stonington, by the hour of 8 o'clock on the following morning, the person of a certain Mrs. Stewart, resident, at New London, then and there being wife of the late British Consul at that Port, together with the family of the same, then that these presents should be held of full force and effect, otherwise to be void, and that in case of such failure so to do, that then, he, the said Hardy should proceed to lay waste, devastate and destroy the town of Stonington from the face of the earth, and Connecticut in particular, and all singular and the belongings thereto, and so affixed his hand, on that 12th day of August.

Now so far as the town of Stonington was concerned, this lady, Mrs. Stewart, was mistress of her own actions, and the town of Stonington could by no shadow of right attempt the exercise of control over her; it could not if it would, and it would not if it could. And it was further represented that sentiments, the most kindly relations, the most respectful, had always prevailed in New London towards this lady, and the only party that could be interposed was that of the government under whose protection and guardianship she then was, that the Com-

manding General had already received a request from the husband of the lady asking that she might be placed on board the *Remillies*, together with the other members of his family, and that the latter had in turn been forwarded to the Executive, from whom it would doubtless receive favorable and prompt attention. In brief, Stonington had no power or authority in the case. With the flag this information was conveyed on board the flagship. The next morning Commander Hardy was again heard from and to this effect: That unless by 12 M. on that day his terms were not complied with, hostilities would be resumed. The regiments were not quartered at Stonington, and as this seemed to imply that no landing of the ships could now be effected, whatever mischief or disaster followed, must result from the engines of destruction on board.

At the hour appointed Mrs. Stewart had not arrived, nor had she at 3 P. M. and as supposed Com. Hardy deeming that sufficient latitude had been allowed, and in as to the possible arrival of Mrs. Stewart at any time, resumed his operations with the ships. The firing again resumed, continued until evening it again ceased for that day, no heavy damage having ensued. At sunrise on the 13th, the *Remillies* and *Pactolus* were warped further in, and at 8 A. M. opened fire, continuing until noon, when it again ceased. At 4 P. M. the ships were returned to their former anchorage. While the firing was in progress, General Isham thought advisable that the guns both now and the small one at their first positions should be withdrawn and placed at a more favorable point for operations if necessary. As the ships swept that position with their fire it was considered an extra hazardous undertaking. Major Lewis was instructed to detail fifty men for the purpose, which he did, and with these succeeded in removing the guns without loss or casualty.

The guns were taken to the northerly end of Main street, but were not again put in use. The military and volunteers perforce from that time being quiet though unwilling witnesses of what followed. With the exception of a guard of fifty men the troops were withdrawn from the points. The Bomb-ship was now arranged so that her broadside bore on the town and her guns turned on the dwellings, then their contents were "turned loose" and went hurling above them and fell into the water away on the east side, where they splashed and made commotion for a moment, then quietly sinking and remained undisturbed to this day. The ships fell out of line and the *Remillies* took up the refrain. Her three tiers of guns were trained on the same target, but quite as recklessly it would seem, for, as the former had been an oversight, this was an undersight, for as they belched out their contents every shot was buried in the soil of the bank on the westerly side, just

above high water mark, but way below the village. But as in this instance, as will be seen, the cold iron had not been suffered to rest in quiet as the other. Further effort in the destruction of the village was abandoned, Com Hardy's efforts had proved futile. And so ended the hurly-burly of those days. It had been stated that the number of shells and carcasses thrown from the ships in the direction of the town was about four hundred, the weight of the same about fifty tons. From three to four tons of shot and shells have since been found and dug from the soil, and are still preserved and may be seen at Stonington. The guns held in high regard by the people still frowningly menace the waters of the sound, and are not yet entirely speechless upon occasion.

## CHAPTER V.

When under the administration of General Jackson, an order was issued from the War Department at Washington, to return them to the Government, stout and earnest resistance was made, and with such result that they have been permitted to remain to the present day, as seeming guardians of the past. The following is inscribed on the record of New London County: "To every one who participated in its defence, on August 9th to 12th, 1814, Stonington awards full measure of Praise, and will cherish their memory and gratefully appreciate their heroic services."

Of the casualties of the days it is recorded that six persons were wounded, among them the before mentioned Lieutenant Hough, but these were not of serious character. Several buildings were at times fired, but the vigilance of the patrol immediately extinguished them. A number of buildings were perforated by shot and for many years these remained as mementoes and witnesses of the energy of the assault. Those were all which could be placed to the credit of and against the great outlay of the Expedition. Comparatively the damage was trifling. The result as will be seen was far more disastrous to the assailants. Mrs. Stewart still remained at New London, her husband casting about for other means of reclamation. The vessels were retired further from the point, and on the day following Com. Hardy requested permission to bring on shore and inter the body of one of his Midshipmen, Thomas Barrett Powers, killed during the assault on Stonington. The request of course was complied with. This young man but 18 years of age was the son of wealthy parents of nobility. The story of his death is thus related: When the squadron arrived off Stonington a sail was discovered trying to pass along the sound. A boat was manned and sent in

pursuit. On arriving alongside the intended prize, it was discovered that the stranger was an armed vessel. She had been sent out as a privateer. It was too late to retire and the boats crew was ordered on board. The officers on board the squadron, it is said, supposed the boats crew had taken possession of the stranger, and their attention being directed to the land operation gave little thought to her further; meantime she escaped. The report goes on to state that, as the intended prize crew reached the decks of the vessel, a volley was fired without orders and several of the men were killed and wounded, among the killed was midshipman Powers. The bodies of the killed and disabled were returned to the boat, and being sent adrift in a short time was discovered and brought to the vessel.

The bodies when brought on shore were accompanied by Com. Hardy and a retinue of their former companions. Naval honors were accorded, and with the attendant gathering were a number of citizens. The services were conducted by the Rev. Ira Hart, chaplain of the 30th Regiment Connecticut Militia. His address was at once pathetic and appropriate. The procession was large which followed the body to the grave prepared in the cemetery of the town. Soon after this a monument marking the spot was erected upon which was inscribed the place and date of his birth, also his decease and attending circumstances.

After some years had transpired, the parents of young Powers crossed the Atlantic with a view of removal and transportation of the remains of their son to the place of his birth. They came to Stonington and visited the grave. Struck with respect for a community whose kindly hand had been so manifestly instrumental in its care and attention to the surroundings, as well as the solicitude which seemed evident to avoid those things which might even tend to give hardness to their feelings, they considered the advisability, or wisdom even of the determination upon which they had come. Their conclusion was, that his body should rest among so kindly a people, so left the grave and remains undisturbed. To this day people their gratitude was warmly expressed, their farewells spoken, and they turned their steps sorrowing homeward.

Before the vessels of the squadron left the vicinity of Stonington, Commodore Hardy again visited the town and quite a number of citizens gathered around and was present. Among other things the most interesting topic of conversation turned upon the late contest and shelling of the place, when the Commodore felt called upon he seemed to address his remarks briefly to the present and took occasion to say that the assault had not been made upon his own volition or by his advice; that his disposition was averse to it. His instructions were from admiral Coch-

rane and most discretionary, and that he had simply obeyed directions. But, he would add, that he had been possessed of ample means, he had called up his best endeavors to the application of those means, certainly so much so as he had ever exerted, and why he had not been more successful he was unable to say. As to the latter interpretation it is to be noted that there generally is "it takes off the edge so to speak of sharp responsibility" and adds comfort to the reflective mind.

It is difficult to tell how many actually entered the battery and handled the guns on the 9th and 10th of August, 1813 and 1814. But from the best information the Stonington borough men were: Maj: Horatio G. Lewis, commanding, George Fellows a midshipman in the United States Navy, Capt. Wm. Potter, Ensign D. Frink, Alexander G. Smith, Amos Dennison Jr., Rev. Jabez S. Swan, Luke Palmer, George Palmer, Thomas Wilcox and Asa Lee. To every one who participated in the defence of Stonington, will be awarded a full measure of praise and the memory of their gallant deeds will be cherished by their country and still more fondly by their descendants.

With reference to those men who so signally stood forth in the blunt of the attack and defence, in those days, it is difficult to bestow such kind a degree of credit as is really their due. To speak of them who are well and favorably known; but who have no certain recorded attention of their patriotism, activity and daring in receiving and repelling the assault upon the village is only to herald their nobility and praise, and thus is exhibited the bold and striking contrast to the conduct of those citizens who looked calmly on in the strife and refused to aid in the contest, nought but a spirit of Blue Light toryism, and it may be added mean spirited cowardice in such conduct. There is no intention or desire to set forth or draw invidious distinction at this late date but history must be held truthful and excused therefor.

Of Major Lewis and Lieutenant Hough, with many others, "their honorable discharge from Military service is recorded." The ancestry of the former were from Wales, England, who came to this country first in 1669 and to Westerly R. I. as is verified on record. He remained a resident of Stonington until 1826, when, with his family and daughters, (the eldest now living and residing at Greenport, Long Island, and who was one of those who rode out of Stonington on the "Ox Cart," as related, the team directed by her mother, so that they might escape the threatened destruction,) and five sons with his wife removed to Blandford, Massachusetts.

In 1840 Major Lewis represented the latter town in the Legislature of that State. Re-election was proposed to him but declining health admonished him to withdraw from future contest for the honor offered.

He lived, however, and died at Blandford in the year 1847. A daughter Mrs. Eliza A. Miner it is stated is still living at Greenport, L. I. The eldest son now living, George W. Lewis, was born at Stonington in 1815, is a resident of Bridgeport, Conn. After removing with his parents to Blandford, at the age of eighteen he became an enlisted member of a Massachusetts Light Infantry Company, serving seven years. In 1837 he was elected ensign of the Company, to which he was attached to the first Brigade, 4th Division. In 1838 he was elected Lieutenant of said Company, and in 1840 he was elected first Lieutenant of said Company, and was in command of said Company until 1845, and in 1845 when it went out of service, in the said year, he was elected Assessor for said town two years in succession, when in 1851 he removed to Bridgeport. Was Common Councilman for that city two years under P. C. Calhoun, mayor, Deputy Sheriff for Fairfield County fifteen years, and elected County Sheriff for three years by the large majority of 2,700, and in 1860 was Deputy United States Marshal for three years.

William M. Lewis, a second son still resides on the old homestead at Blandford. He is a graduate of the Connecticut Literary Institute at Suffield, became civil engineer, and was surveyor of Hampden County, Mass. for several years. County Commissioner for nine years, member of the School Committee of Blandford for forty years.

Gideon P. Lewis, a third son, is a resident of Stratford, Conn., doing a dry goods business in Bridgeport, he conducts a farm also at Stratford. Among the first he availed himself of the advantage of ingrafting upon the native cattle the strain of foreign blood, as well as propagating the pure blood or as the term went "blooded stock," in which he was eminently successful, raising some of the first specimens and of the highest value. This advantage he was persistent in pointing out to others, the benefits, in which efforts of such advocates are to-day manifest on almost every farm and hillside in New England. But even those conspicuous benefits are only slightly appreciated by those whose attention has been especially directed to the results, to the observant they are prominently evident.

A fourth brother Benjamin F. Lewis is a resident of Avondale, adjoining Cincinnati, Ohio, in which latter city he is engaged in the dry goods trade, and in the defence of which city during the late rebellion he was in service.

When the Rebellion broke out, Alex. H. G. Lewis, the fifth son was a resident of Springfield, Mass. In 1861 he enlisted as a soldier and went to the front, remaining substantially in service until the close of the war. Returning to Springfield he was appointed Deputy Sheriff, in



which capacity he served for several years, and afterward removing to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he now resides.

We now come to a historical treat, and such a one as to which the youth of the country are not unfrequently invicted. And it is not far from the range of veracity to assert, that fifty persons in every hundred who may read it, will pass it on to the next with never a thought that an anchorism had been committed or unpardonable blunder perpetrated. But such is history.

#### A RELIC OF THE REVOLUTION.

The ruins of a fort recently discovered in Eastern Conn., Norwich, Feb. 15th. In removing the bank near the north end of their lumber yard at Brewster's Neck on the Thames River, three miles south of this city, the other day, the Dawley Brothers uncovered a ruin that is believed to be the remains of an old fort of Revolutionary days. The ruins cover about an eighth of an acre of ground, and the thick walls are as high as a man's head. It is thought the fort was erected in the Revolution, at the time Decatur's little fleet was blockaded by the English in the Thames, in order to prevent the British war vessels which lay off New London from coming up the river to Norwich.

Not far from the site of the old fortress is lofty Allyn's Point Mountain, on whose peak Decatur built another fort whose guns covered the river in formidable style. Brewster's Neck used to be called Fort Point, and two war vessels were built there in the Revolution, one of which was named the Confederacy. Among the relics found in and about the fort are pieces of an old pot, a broken pewter spoon, and old fashioned table knife and fork, Indian arrow heads, a pair of shears, spikes, a part of a pocket knife, and copper coins. Human bones also were exhumed, and were placed in the Dawley's saw mill. The mill took fire a day or two later and the bones were burned. Years ago other skeletons were found in the neighborhood, which is believed were those of sailors who died of yellow fever at the time Decatur was blockaded at the Neck.

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APPENDIX.

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PAY ROLLS

OF

LIEUT. HORATIO G. LEWIS.

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JUNE, 1813.

*We, the Subscribers, do acknowledge to have received of Hezekiah Goddard, Pay-Master General of the State of Connecticut, the sums annexed to our names respectively, being in full for our pay for the period herein expressed.*

NAMES.	RANK.	Commencement of Pay as per Pay Roll.	Expiration of Pay as per Pay Roll.	Time paid for, Mo. Days	Pay per Month Dols.	Amount received, Dols. Cts.	SIGNERS' NAMES.
Alen Palmer.....	Sergeant.	June 13, 1813.	June 29, 1813.	17	2	1 13	Allen Palmer.
Hosea Grant.....	Corporal.	" " "	" " "	17	"	1 13	Hosea Grant.
Joshua Brown.....	do.	" " "	" " "	17	"	1 13	Joshua Brown, 2d.
Augustus L. Babcock.....	Drummer.	" " "	" " "	8	"	53	Augustus L. Babcock.
George Hempstead.....	Fifer.	" " "	" 20 "	8	"	53	George Hemsted.
James Crandall.....	Private.	" " "	" " "	17	"	1 13	James X Cranall.
Thomas Geer.....	"	" " "	" 29 "	14	"	73	
Harris Geer.....	"	" " "	" 26 "	17	"	1 13	
Jesse Chapman.....	"	" " "	" 29 "	17	"	1 13	Jesse Chapman.
Elias Chapman.....	"	" " "	" " "	17	"	1 13	Elias Chapman.
Thomas H. Edwards.....	"	" " "	" " "	10	"	16	
John Coats.....	"	" " "	" 22 "	3	"	20	
Richard W. Berry.....	"	" " "	" 15 "	17	"	1 13	
Ezekiel Bailey.....	"	" " "	" 29 "	17	"	1 13	
Eldridge Whipple.....	"	" " "	" " "	17	"	1 13	Eldridge Whipple.
Amos Baldwin.....	"	" " "	" " "	17	"	1 13	
Caleb Woodward.....	"	" " "	" " "	17	"	1 13	Caleb Woodward.
Daniel Dewey.....	"	" " "	" " "	17	"	1 13	Dan Dewey.
Samuel F. Burdick.....	"	" " "	" 20 "	8	"	53	
Amos Chesbrough.....	"	" " "	" 29 "	17	"	1 13	
Russel Bentley.....	"	" 15 "	" " "	15	"	1 00	Russel Bentley.
Nathan Lewis.....	"	" " "	" " "	15	"	1 00	

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NAMES.	RANK.	Commencement of Pay as per Pay Roll.	Ending of Pay.	Time paid for. Mo. Days	Pay per Month. Dols.	Amount received. Dols. Cts.	SIGNERS' NAMES.
Gurdon Trumbull.....	Sergeant.	1813, June 29	1813, Aug. 11.	1 13	1	1 41 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Gurdon Trumbull.
David A. Starr.....	Corporal.	" "	" "	1 13	1	1 41 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	David A. Starr.
Alex. G. Smith.....	do.	" "	" "	1 13	1	1 41 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Alex. Smith.
Sam'l Bottom, Jr.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Samuel Bottom, Jr.
Elihu Chesebro, Jr.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Elihu Cheseborough.
David T. Chesebro.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	D. T. Cheseboro.
Joseph Cutter.....		July 6	" "	1 5	2	2 37 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Joseph Cutter.
Joseph Frink.....		June 5	" "	1 6	2	2 39 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	D. A. Starr for J. Frink.
Amos Hancox.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Amos S. Hancox.
Isaac Loper.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Isaac C. Loper.
Benj. Merritt.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Benjamin Merritt.
Otis Pendleton.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Otis Pendleton.
Nath. M. Pendleton.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Nath. M. Pendleton.
Zeba D. Palmer.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Zeba D. Palmer.
James Stanton.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	James Stanton.
Joshua Swan, Jr.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Joshua Swan, Jun'r.
John Terrett.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	John Terrett.
Aaron Taylor.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Aaron Taylor.
Hamilton White.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Hamilton White.
Nathan Willcox.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Nathan Willcox.
Sam. B urch.....		" "	" "	1 13	2	2 83 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	Samuel Burtch.





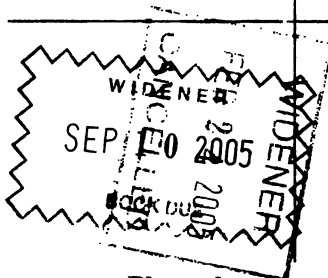
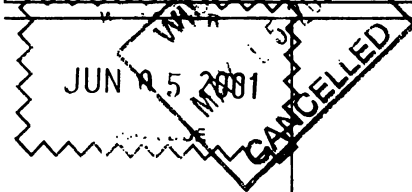


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